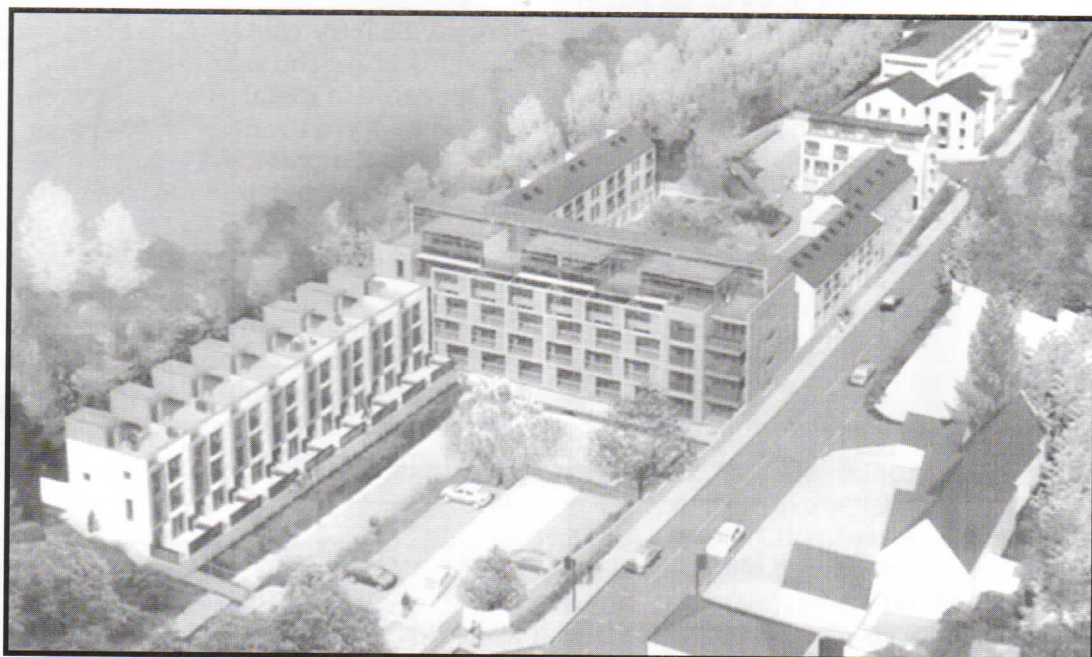


# *The* WOODCHESTER *Word*

**Issue 51 - Summer 2015**

## **Rooksmoor Mills development given the ok by Stroud District Council**

**Do you think this design of housing is right for an area of historical importance at Rooksmoor where all the surrounding buildings are so historically important?**



### **Rooksmoor Mills - a view from the Parish Council**

The SDC Development Control Committee met on the 9th June and Stroud District Councillors recommended that plans for development of the historic Rooksmoor Mills site in North Woodchester be accepted. The proposals include full planning permission for 27 new flats and houses, a revived millpond and access roads and outline development for a further 32 more residential units and 1,300 sq. metres of commercial floor space.

Councillors heard objections from local residents and Woodchester Parish Council. While not opposed in principle to development of the site, objectors pointed out that much of the proposed development was overbearing and did not meet the need to conserve and enhance the historic environment of the area which includes a number of outstanding listed buildings. It is also immediately adjacent to the historic Roman Villa Site. In addition objectors felt that the lack of provision of affordable housing on the site on the grounds of its not being profitable to the developers because of the extra expense to themselves of restoring the site were not acceptable.

Further it was noted that Planning Officers in recommending acceptance of the scheme had not properly followed existing planning policies and, in particular, had failed to take into account the draft proposals for the Stroud District Plan currently under consideration by a government inspector.

Local residents are now considering what further action can be taken to try to have the Council's decision revisited and amended. What do you think of this development?

**What do readers think about this development?**



# Woodchester Wildlife

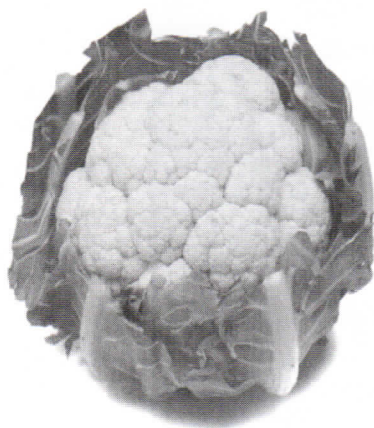
## August – an important time for Adders



August is an important month for adders, our only venomous snake. It's the time for giving birth – yes, that's right – birth. Adders don't lay shelled eggs in clutches like most other snakes. Instead the young adders hatch and develop inside the mother's body until they become small (about earthworm size) but fully developed replicas of the adults. They are born to the outside world living inside transparent membranous capsules, from which they quickly slither free. Each female produces between three and 18 offspring at a time.

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## Cauliflowers



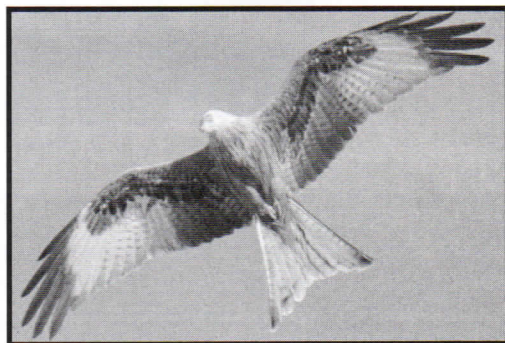
Once the staple food of everyday country cooking, the cauliflower has been left in the shade by other vegetables in recent years. Once the laughing stock of school dinner halls, where it appeared in metal trays looking like drowned white brains but with a less appealing flavour. Even if the poor old cauliflower developed an image problem, it is still a great veg. Like broccoli, it is a cabbage where the flowers have begun to form but through selective breeding, have stopped at the bud stage, creating extravagant heads. The cauli first originated in the fertile fields of Asia Minor and appeared on the tables of the elite in France mid 17<sup>th</sup> century during the reign of Louis XIV. You will have to search hard to find it grown in farms in Gloucestershire. It's main growing areas in the UK are in Devon, Cornwall, Kent, Pembrokeshire and Lincolnshire. Cauliflower is packed full of vitamin C, low in cholesterol, and full of nutritional value. It has a wonderful ability to hold other flavours but is best with a cheese sauce where a whole cauli can happily feed a family of four.

---

## Red Kites

Has anyone seen a red kite over Woodchester yet? Red kites were released over the Chilterns some years ago and have been gradually moving westwards. Apparently, they have been spotted on rare occasions in the north-east Cotswolds and at Slimbridge. They are beautiful birds of prey that scavenge to survive and can be easily identified by their V – shaped tail, very different from the buzzard's tail. Kites also have more slender wings than the buzzard.

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## Back from the brink



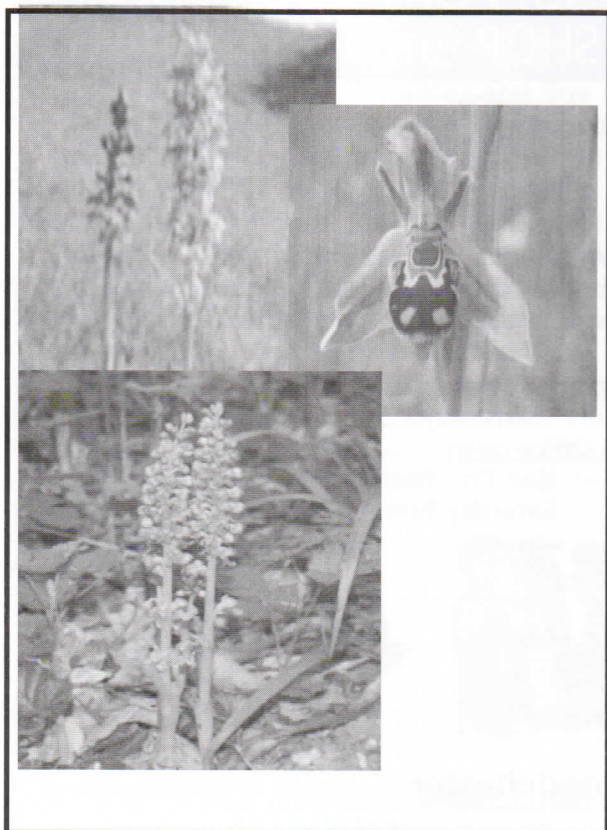
Butterfly populations can go haywire when the summer weather is wet and cold. In 2008 and 2009, the marsh fritillary butterfly population in Gloucestershire's one only colony was down to less than 300. Then, better summer weather in recent years has meant that the colony has reached 25,000, and they are beginning to wander far and wide. So look out for one in Woodchester this summer.

---



# All around us - Our Woodchester Wildlife

## Flora Exotica – wild orchids



Throughout history, orchids have been regarded as floral royalty. Celebrated for their showy blooms and strange beauty, and used as an aphrodisiac in the past, we are fortunate to have close to us in Woodchester, areas of unimproved pastureland that are perfect grounds for orchids – Selsley Common and Rodborough and Minchinhampton Commons. With wonderful names such as lady's slipper, common twayblade, autumn lady's tresses and birds nest orchid, many are hard to find, but on Selsley common, during most summers, we have a fine collection of for example, common spotted orchid, pyramid orchid and bee orchids. If you search hard, you might be lucky to find a green-winged orchid and fragrant orchid. Happy hunting, and remember, orchids are protected plants, so, no picking!!

## A passion for pigeons!!

Overlooked, maligned and disliked for stealing your peas and cabbages, pigeons and doves have a subtle beauty and are far more intelligent than we think. They have been trained to fly for filming and of course have been used in history to carry messages in times of war. Not too difficult to tell apart, in the UK, the wood pigeon, stock dove and rock dove are closest in appearance. The collared dove is easy to identify because of its dark collar on its grey neck. The migrating turtle dove is a very rare bird on the point of extinction in the UK (whatever we sing about it at Christmas.) Although shy in the countryside pigeons can be tame and approachable in towns and cities (anyone who has been to Trafalgar Square can witness this!) Its cooing call is a familiar sound in woodlands as is the loud clatter of its wings when it flies away. When it walks, it waddles, which makes it look as if its overweight, but in fact, its feathers weigh more than its bones.



## Which bird is it??

This bird originated in the Far East, probably also native to Greece and Turkey, would have been familiar to the Greeks and were probably introduced to Gloucestershire (and the rest of England) by the Romans. They are breeding in the countryside during June and July, and lay one of the largest clutches of eggs of any bird in Britain, 7 – 15 eggs, so incubation is a high-stakes activity. The male bird is the keeper of the harem of usually 2 or 3 hens but sometimes more. The females scape out nests and he will sire all of their eggs, and in return will guard them from the attentions of rival males, which often look to trespass on his territory and disrupt the nest. Which bird is it? Answer on back page.



## LOCAL BUSINESSES

### Meditation Classes

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## SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOP and POST OFFICE



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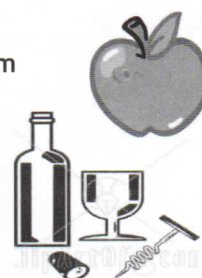
Shop open : Mon- Frid 7.30 - 5.30

Saturday 8.30 - 12.30 pm

Post Office open :

Mon-Fri 9am - 5.30pm

Saturday 9am - 12.30pm



**Woodchester Village Shop & Post Office**

## Woodchester Village Hall

Bob Ludlow has been chairman of the village hall committee for many years and now feels it is time to step down from this important role. He has overseen the hall develop from a small enterprise to an essential village amenity, used by many organisations. He is backed up by a small committee of trustees who meet twice during the year.

This is an important post that needs commitment and if anyone is interested, could they please contact Ann Bijkerk, Parish Council Clerk on 873456.

Also, Mrs. Joyce Adamson who has worked as secretary alongside Bob has tendered her resignation so this post needs to be filled too.

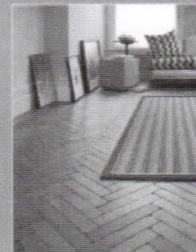
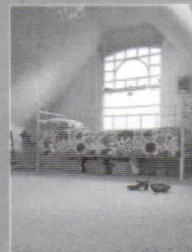
It doesn't need to be said that the village hall must have a chairman and secretary. The village hall needs someone at the helm! Can you help??

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## OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

### CHARITY GARDEN PARTY

On Saturday 11th July from 1pm, we are having a Charity Garden Party in aid of the Cobalt Unit, Longfield (previously Cotswold Care Hospice) and Sue Ryder because of the valued support these organisations have given recently to friends in the village at difficult times. There will be a range of attractions, including stalls selling cakes, books, accessories, bric-a-brac, toys, plants, etc., tombola, a raffle and an auction. Attractions for the children are a bouncy castle and face painting and also musical entertainment including a young boys' rock group. Refreshments will be available and there will be a barbecue.

We do hope you will be able to support us by donating any items for the stalls, or prizes for the tombola, raffle or auction. We would be very grateful for any contributions and anything you wish to donate can be brought to us or left at the village shop.

The event is being held in the grounds of Larchgrove House and access will be via Home Ground (off Church Road, North Woodchester). Unfortunately, there will be no parking facilities so we hope you will be able to walk or park in the village - the Church green will be available, weather permitting!

Thanks to everyone who is helping with the organisation of the party and in anticipation of your support. We look forward to seeing you and having a good time!

Angie and Roger Campbell

### Parking in South Woodchester High Street

There is currently a growing problem with parking in South Woodchester High Street, which has on two occasions caused the bus driver to have to knock up houses to try to get through. Daily, delivery vans and larger vehicles which have a need to call at properties in High Street just can't get through because of inconsiderate parking. There is a serious risk that we could lose the bus route if this continues. There is of course the other serious issue of problems for Fire and Emergency Services to get through the street. This problem of parking is not going to go away without High Street residents making every effort to park sensibly and considerately.

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***PROBLEMS WITH SOFTWARE : The Editor regrets that the target time for publication of the Summer Edition has been delayed because of software/laptop problems. The Serif Pageplus software and the laptop did not co-operate together and the production of this Word has taken over ten times as long as others - sorry everyone! The Editor will be taking advice about different or upgrading the software before the Autumn edition is produced. Ed***

### WOODCHESTER

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# OUR SCHOOLS

## **St. Dominic's School** **What has been happening in Key Stage 1?**

The children at St Dominic's Catholic Primary school are well over half way through what will be a very busy summer term. There has been much excitement with the hatching of the reception children's chickens and now the formation of the caterpillar chrysalis in years 2 and 3. This has caused a lot of excitement even although the caterpillars are not quite as pretty as the chicks! The whole school is awaiting the formation of the most beautiful butterflies.

### **Sporting Events**

Our Key stage 2 children have been working very hard this term on all aspects of the curriculum and are very much enjoying the good weather where they have been able to do a lot more sports out of doors. Some of our parents have started a lunch time running club and the children make use of our top field for training. We are all very excited about this and we are hoping that we can get a group of mums and teachers together to participate in one of the Race for Life runs in the coming weeks. Hopefully in one of the future editions we will be able to evidence some success in this.

### **Cluster Schools**

We are very fortunate in this area that we have very close links with our local schools where we can share ideas and resources. Recently 9 local primary schools got together at St Dominic's to look at 'Assessment without levels.' This is an excellent way for teachers and all staff to share ideas. We have planned to continue this and the same 9 schools will meet again at St Dominic's in July and again at Nailsworth Primary in September.



**A Bug Hotel** As the children are all thinking of what lies ahead in the summer holidays we thought we would try and engage them further by asking them to plan, design and build a hotel for mini beasts as we thought that the millions on insects would also enjoy a summer holiday in a hotel. This was a cross curricular project that included literacy, mathematics, science and Design technology.

The children came up with some wonderful creations that are currently on display in our school hall. We are hoping to move some of these to our pond area and see what mini beasts decide to book a room at one of the hotels!

### **First Communion Children**

Four of the children from St Dominic's made their First Holy Communion at the church of The Annunciation in Woodchester. In total there were 14 children all from a number of parishes. It was a lovely day for all of the children, the staff, parents and the

parishioners to come and celebrate with the children. Tea and cake was served in the school hall afterwards.



### **Celebration Assembly**

Recently we had a celebration assembly where the children took to showing us their musical talents. Many of the children participate in violin, piano and guitar lessons within the school week. It is wonderful to see them progress throughout the year and for the children to be able to share their musical ability with their peers.

Briege Ward, Headteacher



## OUR CHURCHES

### St.Mary's – Your local Anglican Church

Just a quick update for you on what's going on at St Mary's...

Spring is traditionally a time for taking a fresh look at things and we've been taking a long hard look at our beautiful Victorian church – not at the dust (though there is a bit of that) – but more with a view to seeing how we can make the most of it without spoiling what we have. St Mary's is a fantastic Victorian building and is already a great resource for church activities and for the wider community – Messy Church and Lunch-with-Friends for example – but some of the facilities really need updating **and many draughts need excluding**.

Architects from the diocese have been around to see if practical facilities like the doors, the central heating and the kitchen & toilet areas can be improved – while at the same time making sure all the important architectural features are preserved and creating welcoming quiet areas for private prayer.

The aim is to make the building even more useful as a venue for the church, school and everyone in Woodchester, but without compromising the spirituality of the place. Any change will only happen slowly and after extensive consultation with everyone involved – but the process has begun and we're really excited.

Another thing that has been on our minds as a church recently are the terrible things happening all over the world. Night after night, we see pictures of desperate African refugees trying to reach Europe, or hear about thousands dying of disease or natural disasters like the recent earthquake in Nepal. Nothing seems off-limits for extremists kidnapping and murdering... It can be overwhelming and it's hard to know how to respond. Where is God in all this?

Many events have also been organised to commemorate the hundred year anniversary of World War 1. Here in Woodchester a half-muffled quarter peal of bells is being rung on or near the hundredth anniversary of the deaths of all the servicemen from this community lost during the conflict. This too reminds us of a time when the suffering and cruelty of humanity became utterly overwhelming. Faced with the mud, blood and terror of WW1 trenches Army chaplain GA Studdert Kennedy (better known as Woodbine Willie for his habit of giving cigarettes to injured and dying soldiers ) wrote a poem about where God was, as he saw it, in the madness all around him.

To finish; don't forget, if there's anything you'd like prayer for – anonymously or otherwise – just stick it on the prayer tree at the back of church (post-it notes provided) and it will get prayed for. Or, if you can't get to the church, call 872287 to leave a message and we'll put the prayer up for you. With love and enjoy the Summer.

---

### News from the Church of the Annunciation, South Woodchester

Listed buildings are expensive to maintain and the quinquennial report, very thoroughly carried out by Tony Thompson, highlighted several areas where work needed to be done urgently in order to keep the fabric wind and weatherproof. This is why we now have scaffolding in place again while the builders repair damage to the walls, replacing sections of crumbling stone with new, and also fixing some new roof tiles. Scaffolding is a major cost of any works, to which is added the continuing escalation of health and safety compliance regulations, for which a survey of the whole church has just been completed. We do need to extend the burial area and hope to put kerbing around the place set aside for cremation ashes to be interred.

Recycling of green waste is an important part of our stewardship; there are several compost bins around the churchyard, primarily for dead flowers from graves and flower arranging material, but 'foreign bodies' creep in, i.e. oasis, ribbon, tea-lights, wreaths, wrapping paper, carrier bags, and plastic/glass containers. The latter should of course be recycled. Do other churches have this problem with non-separation of waste? Laminated notices are being prepared for all the bins, time will tell if they are effective, as it wastes time having to sort it out.

A long overdue name board is to be erected next to the south porch as visitors and delivery vans often mistake our church for St. Mary's as they come up St. Mary's Hill from the A46.

We have an on-going project 'Living Churchyards- Caring for God's Acre'. This involves leaving specified areas unmown until autumn so that wildflowers can flourish and set seed, and a survey is being done of all the flora and fauna throughout the year to count how many species inhabit the grass, walls, trees and hedges within its boundaries which should include lichens and mosses; it will also explore the need for more planting to encourage bees and other pollinating insects. We already have moles, many insects, birds and probably grass snakes. The children are also involved, with the Buzz Club being in the school field. We are fortunate to be surrounded by the A.O.N.B. with its unimproved lime-stone grassland so close to gardens, where wild flowers from pastures and both commons colonise lawns, borders and every path, nook and cranny.



## PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council meetings  
will be held on:

2<sup>nd</sup> July – 7pm in the Village Hall. Karen Phimister from the Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council will be presenting the results of the Affordable Housing Survey which many of you completed.

3<sup>rd</sup> September – 7pm in the Village Hall

All residents are very welcome to attend and agendas are placed on notice boards, the website and our Facebook page several days before each meeting.

**Do you have a business based in  
Woodchester?**

**Would you like more  
advertising for your business?**

**We are currently updating the  
Business Directory on the  
Woodchester website.**

**If you would like to be included,  
please email your details (including  
website address if you have one) to  
Ann Bijkerk,  
clerk@woodchesterparish.org.uk.**



**We are ready and waiting to go with the Mountain Bike Trails  
and hope that hold-ups will soon be a thing of the past!**

# Woodchester Community



**The Parish Council have set up a Facebook page 'Woodchester Community' and are  
very keen to attract as many residents as possible to 'like' the page.**

**Find out what's happening locally and add your comments, ideas, questions and  
photographs relating to life in our village.**



[www.facebook.com/woodchestercommunity](http://www.facebook.com/woodchestercommunity)





## LOCAL NEWS

### Village Hall

**We have an excellent village hall and it would be sad to see its use and care deteriorate because no-one is able to take over the chairman ship from Bob Ludlow when he steps down in October. If you live in the village and want to put something back in to Woodchester, this job would be ideal for you. Contact Ann Bijkerk Parish Clerk (873456) if you think you can help.**

### Rooksmoor Mills

Village residents and those living in Rooksmoor have strong opinions about the type of development planned for the mill site. No-one the Editor has met is against the Rooksmoor site from being developed but the type, design and number of the housing units planned is so alien to the old and attractive buildings in Rooksmoor that the Woodchester Word without any doubt, believes that the SDC decision and the planners have got it wrong. The buildings will overshadow the historic Rooksmoor cottages and houses because of the development's height and the design is completely unsympathetic to the old houses in the this part of Woodchester and Rooksmoor.

**But does anyone listen?!** In years to come, people will ask the same question that they ask about the Merrywalks car park.....Who the heck allowed that to be built?!

### Is this the very last Woodchester Word??

**This might be the last Woodchester Word! As readers are aware, the Word is financed by adverts and for those who do advertise here, we are very grateful. There is no way of knowing whether advertisers receive additional custom by placing their adverts in the Woodchester Word but we believe it does increase their turnover. However, the number of advertisers has dropped recently and therefore, there is not enough income at the moment to pay for printing costs. Unless we find more advertisers, this could be goodbye from me!!**

### Christian Aid Week - thank you

During the second week of May, a band of people (mostly who attend St. Mary's Church) gave out Christian Aid Week envelopes to all houses in North and South Woodchester, then knocked on doors and collected them a few days later. **Thank you to everyone who gave, no matter how much or how little, in the envelope.** Over £1,200 was raised for the charity which supports those in need in this country and in the Third world.

Thank goodness none of us in Woodchester lives in conditions that so many in our world have to bear.

Given that this was the only house to house collection that has taken place in the village this year, (I think) I was surprised to meet rudeness and sarcasim by some of the residents. Is there really any need for this? A polite "No thank you" is sufficient rather than hiding behind a closed door and pretending not to be in! You learn a lot about your neighbours when volunteering for a charity!!

Thank you of course to all the collectors who did a sterling job.

### Girlguiding Woodchester

Two new Brownies made their Promise during an evening of entertainment as the Brownies presented an evening of music as a finale to their Musician's badge. Girls have been awarded various badges and are currently working on their Designer badge. Woodchester Brownies and Guides joined with other Units from Nailsworth Valley District to enjoy a trip to the West Midland Safari Park. The weather was perfect.

The Guides from Woodchester spent an evening at Westonbirt Arboretum earlier this year on a wildlife night hike - unfortunately we didn't see much wildlife, but we did hear bats and owls and we investigated a badger sett. The girls also tried star gazing. The hot chocolate at the end of the evening went down a treat!

This term the Guides have chosen to work on their performing arts badge and are doing so with very little assistance from Leaders and their teamwork is brilliant; nearly as good as their performing!

A couple of Woodchester Guides are joining Nailsworth Guides at their summer camp in August. Anyone interested in joining Girlguiding, either as a Brownie, Guide or Leader, please visit [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) or contact Jackie on 01453 821258.



## WOODCHESTER TOPICS

### Churchyards - where living goes on for ever!!

Where in Woodchester is it most likely you will see the greatest amount of wildlife? Unlikely as it may seem, the churchyard is the place. ....not our well manicured, neat and beautifully cared for churchyard adjacent to St. Mary's Church in North Woodchester nor the grounds surrounding the Church of the Annunciation in South Woodchester, but the old graveyard in Church Lane. As well as being the home for lizards and slow worms, adders and grass snakes warming themselves on the stones, it is the home to numerous insects, butterflies and moths. Badgers and foxes visit during the dark hours, while bats patrol the spaces above the gravestones and trees. During the day, birds of many types visit searching for food - blackbirds, tits, jackdaws, crows, magpies, sparrows, robins, starlings and many more, while swifts, house martins and swallows swoop and skim the land in their search for their meals of flying insects.



Wild flowers, weeds and trees cover the ground where once Romans relaxed and much later villagers worshipped. Red

Valerian, Jack-in-the-hedge, campion, field scabious, nettles, hedge bindweed, vetch, sorrel, rose bay willow herb all in different seasons grow profusely where the mower doesn't reach. Small birds feed and nest in the ivy growing up the walls. The yew trees offer an ample supply of red berries in autumn.

But graveyards haven't always been the peaceful places that they are now. In the past in many church yards, but hopefully, not ours, numerous less-than-peaceful activities took place, from markets, archery practice to cock fighting and boxing.



The old churchyard closed in 1863 when the new church was commissioned in the same year and took over for worship by parishioners in the two villages. Some memorials were removed from the old church to the new one and these can be seen if you visit St. Mary's. The church is always open during the day for visitors or for those who want to have a quiet time of prayer, as is the old churchyard, a place of peace and solitude at most times of the day and night.

Interestingly, a priest was recorded being at Woodchester way back in the year 863. If you go in to the church yard and sit still and silently, at any time of the day or night, you won't be alone

for long. You might even meet the ghost of the first priest of Woodchester!



# WOODCHESTER HERITAGE

## Woodchester Man at Waterloo Sunday 18 June 1815

Whilst I was researching Woodchester residents serving in WW1, the inevitable question was asked. "Did we have anyone at Waterloo?" Well, the answer is yes!

James Dudbridge was, according to his discharge papers, born in Woodchester in 1777. Although there were several Dudbridge families in the village at the time, there is not an appropriate baptism for him at St Mary's. If I have interpreted the papers correctly, he enlisted as a private in the 40th (2nd Somersetshire) Regiment of Foot at Gloucester, on 24 September 1799 aged 22.

James served just under 3 years as a private before being promoted to corporal. After a further 5 years he became a sergeant.

He served in South America which could mean he was with the 1st Bn at the failed attempt to capture Buenos Aires in 1806. The battalion was then deployed to Spain and Portugal from 1808 to 1814. The medal rolls put him at Vimiera and Talavera but no more, which may suggest that he was wounded. He then served in North America (Canada). The battalion was sent there in 1814 to fight in the War of 1812 (1812 to 1815) against the Americans but were quickly recalled following Napoleon's escape from Elba. By the time of the Battle of Waterloo, he was still with the 40th Foot which was part of the 6th Division of Wellington's army, under the command of Lt Gen Sir Lowry Cole. They joined the force just before the battle commenced and were initially placed in reserve. Later in the day, they were moved to the centre of the line near La Haye Sainte. The 40th Foot held firm all day and helped drive off Napoleon's final massed infantry attack, losing 167 killed or wounded.

James was discharged from the army, 19 January 1819 due to 'Reduction in the Establishment of the Regiment', having served 21 years and 118 days. His conduct as a soldier had been very good. His description, should you ever need to identify him, was as follows - 5 feet 9 ins (1.75m) tall, dark hair, grey eyes and fresh complexion. He was by trade a labourer but he appears to have been sufficiently literate to sign his discharge papers in a very tidy hand.

In 1851, James Dudbridge, aged 73, born Woodchester, a Chelsea Pensioner, was living in Littleworth with his wife Jane. They were already in Littleworth in 1841 living in 'Scorpion's Row'.

The list of Chelsea Pensioners who served in Canada conveniently tells us that he died 3.3/51, which might be interpreted as 3 March 1851. Unfortunately, the census was taken as at midnight on 30/31 March so something doesn't quite add up.

Finally, if anyone has any questions about Woodchester men at Agincourt (Friday 25 October 1415) - please keep them to yourselves!

Barbara Warnes

## Woodchester Historical Society

Next Historical Society meeting is on 28th July and is a walk round North Woodchester lead by Barbara Warnes. Meet at the church at 7.30

On September 8th David Gegg will be talking about the Shropshire poet AE Houseman and the Woodchester connection. 7.30 in the Undercroft.

The dates of the next series of muffled bells to be rung from the church tower in memory of Woodchester men who died in the Great War are as follows ::

3 Oct	Edgar Miles
13 Oct	William Albert Rigsby
15 Oct	Walter William Beard.





# LETTERS to the EDITOR

## The Woodchester Bus - use it or lose it!

Four times a week, a bus climbs hills and manoeuvres carefully along narrow lanes and past parked cars to serve our village. On Tuesdays, there are two journeys from Stroud to Woodchester and back, and on Fridays two journeys from and to Nailsworth. For elderly people, and for those who find it difficult to carry heavy shopping across the busy A46 and up the hill, it is a wonderful amenity. But the future of the service, subsidised by Gloucestershire County Council, is uncertain because so few people use it.

This may be because the service is not well advertised. There is a timetable at the bus-stop outside the Endowed School, and another at stop D in Merrywalks, but none that I can find at Nailsworth bus station, or in South Woodchester. None of the parish noticeboards have information about the service, nor does the village shop. (Parish Council - shouldn't you do something about this?)

So, for the benefit of would-be passengers, and in the hope that more people will use the service if they know about it, here is a summary of the timetable:

### **Tuesdays - route 267**

Stroud Merrywalks (stop D)	11.10	13.50
North Woodchester Church Road	11.21	14.01
South Woodchester Ram Inn	11.25	14.05
Stroud Merrywalks	11.37	14.17

The route runs via Stratford Road and Dudbridge, passing close to both Tesco and Sainsbury's. In Woodchester, the driver will stop anywhere safe to pick up and set down passengers on the route which runs past the Post Office, the Royal Oak, Church Road, Southbank, Southfield Road, the Ram Inn and Frogmarsh Lane.

### **Fridays - route 263**

Nailsworth Bus Station	10.30	13.10
North Woodchester Church Road	10.53	13.31
South Woodchester Ram Inn	10.59	13.39
Nailsworth Bus Station	11.05	13.45

The bus runs from Nailsworth through Amberley and St Chloe before reaching Woodchester, and then returns to Nailsworth on a direct route via Frogmarsh Lane and the A46. The route through Woodchester is the same as for the Tuesday Stroud buses.

Senior bus passes can be used on these services.

Peter Carter



Use it -  
or lose it!!

### **Footpaths**

A reader has asked the Word to express her thanks to two people who have cleared footpaths in the village. The first is the path that links North and South Woodchester and gets very muddy with silt near the stream. Whoever clears this path of the mud is thanked. The other is on the North Woodchester path to Selsley, where it climbs upwards after the field next to The Priory, has been cleared of nettles, brambles and growth of weeds, and also at the stile at the top of Water Lane. Also, fallen trees have at last been cleared from the path through Rabbit Warren woods. Thank you from all walkers!



## LOCAL EVENTS

### Woodchester Open Gardens

Saturday 6 June was Open Gardens day. Fifteen Woodchester gardens were open to the public from the Old Priory in North Woodchester, to Summerwells Terrace on Convent Lane. The Community Orchard, (home to the Buzz Club), and Allotments were also opened, prompting something of a much needed tidy up on the part of some people, (the writer included), in the weeks before!

With so many varied and beautiful gardens on display, it would be invidious to try and single out any for special mention; visitors were conscious in each and every one of the huge passion, skill, imagination and sheer hard work that goes into creating a garden. The Committee is extremely grateful to all those who participated and to the Woodchester Village Shop where Programmes could be bought in advance, which was extremely helpful. In some gardens plants were for sale which was very much appreciated, as was delightful playing of the wind quartet in the garden of Bracks.

A big thank you is due also to all those who baked cakes for the Teas, and to Dawn, Wendy and Freya who served them at Inschdene in South Woodchester and to the team from the WI who did a sterling job serving teas at the Old Priory. And finally, thank you to all who supported this event. It was very pleasing to see so many people strolling around and enjoying this lovely village. The event was intended to encourage people to explore the village and meet new neighbours; an added bonus is the early indication that, net of expenses, we have raised in excess of £400 to donate to Horsfall House and the Stroud Foodbank.

We now look forward to the Produce Show on Saturday 12 September and a friendly football match with the Village team in the Autumn.

Penny Brown, Village Events Committee

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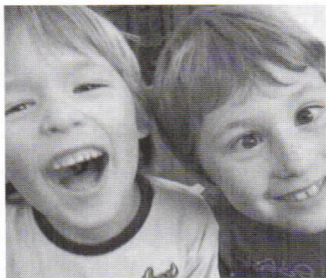


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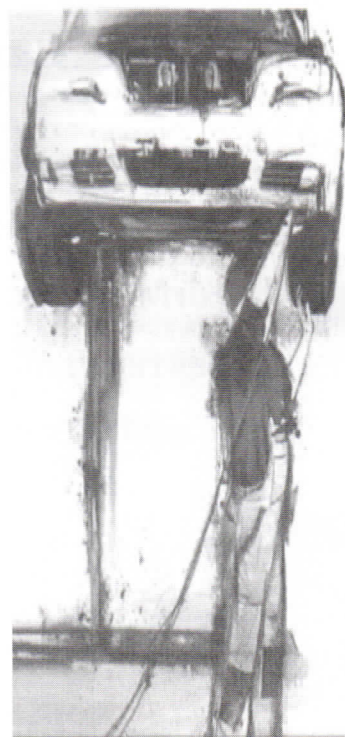
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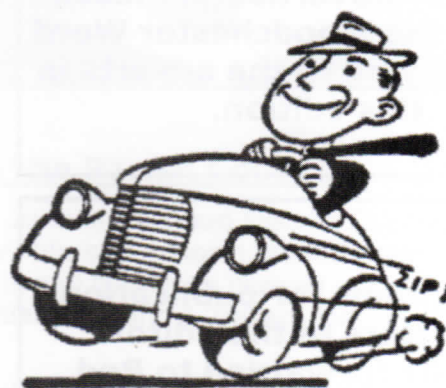
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**The Woodchester Website –**  
**www.woodchesterparish.org.uk**

Villagers are reminded to visit the Woodchester Parish website regularly to keep up to date with events and happenings taking place in the village.

Copies of past editions of the Woodchester Word are on the village website and can be accessed on woodchesterparish.org.uk

**Heard in school.....**

A teacher who was leaving a local school received a letter from a pupil who clearly was sad to see him go. The letter said "I don't want you to leave" but the word "leave" was spelt "live"!!

**Heard in the pub.....**

"All of us face challenging moments in our lives, like taking children in to a house with a white carpet!"

"Never speak ill of yourself. Your friends will say enough on that subject!"

One friend to a friend who was feeling under the weather : "Go on, date a nurse. You look great compared to all the sickness and death they have to deal with!"

**The "Woodchester Word" is an independent publication and is funded by advertisers. Please mention the Woodchester Word when replying to the adverts in this edition.**

**Articles, items for publication and letters to the editor should be forwarded to Rod Harris, tel: 872317 or 0777 565 2379, or by email (preferred) rod.harris@fsmail.net**

**Answer to which bird is it on page 3....pheasant**

**Dates for your Diary**

**Summer in Woodchester**

**St. Mary's Church, North Woodchester** : See notice boards or web site for times of services.

**Messy Church** : Wednesdays, monthly, at 3.15 p.m. in the church (details from Liz Hale 765422) Next Messy Church is September 16<sup>th</sup>

**Lunch-with-friends** at St. Mary's Church on third Friday of the month (usually) at 12 noon. Liz on 872287 or Christina on 873481 for details. Next dates : July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 14<sup>th</sup>

For details of services at both Woodchester churches, please see notice boards or web-sites

**Summer concerts in St. Mary's Church:**

11th July Thames Head Singers at 7.30 p.m.

Further information from Andrew Pemberton, 872813

**Garden Party at Larchgrove, Selsley Road** Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup>

**Woodchester Produce Show** : Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup>

**Woodchester Endowed School summer fair** : Friday July 11<sup>th</sup> at 5.00 p.m.

**Village Hall**

**Monday**

1400-1600 Circle Dancing (alternate weeks 07814 011980)

17.45 - 19.00 Pilates 07773 788608

1915-2245 Table Tennis Club (Sept-March, 766116)

**Tuesday**

1000-1200 Art Group (01453 873689)

1915-2245 Table Tennis Club (Sept-March, 766116)

**Wednesday**

1000-1600 Calligraphy- alternate weeks (01452 387768)

1900-2000 Nia Dance (01453 836378)

**Thursday**

1000-1200 Healthy Lifestyles (01285 885766)

1830-2130 Parish Council (1st in alternate months)

1930-2130 Women's Institute (3rd in month, 873658)

1930-2130 Morris Dancing (2nd, 4th, 5th, 731752)

**Friday**

1000-1200 Art Class U3A (01453 872044)

1915-2245 Table Tennis Club (Sept-March, 766116)

**For all bookings, including weekend bookings, please contact Mrs Kath Gay on 01453 873348.**

*Views expressed in this paper are those of the editor and not necessarily those of Woodchester Parish Council. We reserve the right to edit or omit any material submitted for publication. No liability is accepted for loss or damage arising from any omission of copy or advertising.*